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Editorial

The first article in this issue examines the complex intersection of diversity management models in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting their influence on the persistence of inequalities and discrimination against the Afro-descendant population. Despite the rich cultural diversity in the region, challenges related to inequality and discrimination persist, especially towards ethnic groups such as the Afro-descendant population. The research explores historical transformations, from independence struggles to civil rights movements, that have shaped interethnic relations. Although diversity management policies have been enacted, the persistence of inequality raises questions about their effectiveness.

The second article addresses the phenomenon of the weakening of the multilateral system of international trade, administered exclusively by the World Trade Organization. The objective was to close an existing legal loophole. The scope of the expression "the relationship between the parties", contained in the final part of Article 31(3) of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, was analyzed only in relation to preferential trade agreements. By delimiting the study to narrow down the research, it was possible to relate the interpretation of the specific provision of the "Treaty on Treaties" to the law applicable to the World Trade Organization. WTO jurisprudence can be used in regional international economic jurisdictions, but the reverse is not true.

The third article in this issue deals with an investigation conducted at the Federación para el Desarrollo Municipal Tucureño, a company located in the municipality of San Miguel Tucurú, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, where the problem of income below U.S. dollars was identified. \$1362.00 per year. Income originated in agro-industrial activities, a situation that represented an opportunity to study it and provide a technical solution to improve productivity and competitiveness, developing a business policy proposal to obtain higher income with integrated activities, consisting of production components, raw material transformation, raw material negotiation, training, use of the management system and financial resources.

The fourth study that is part of this edition addresses a documentary analysis on the concepts of innovation, business model and competitiveness that allows understanding the business activities of MSMEs and their implications for the creation of value, through the increase of customers or users of the products or services offered and the competitive advantages, being this a contribution to the reader, also addressing strategic factors that have innovation and that lead to establish research trends on the subject. It is a documentary work in which various sources such as journals, books and other literature located in Scopus, Scielo, Google scholar and other databases were consulted in order to have a structured frame of reference.

The fifth research article deals with gender-based violence, which refers to any action intended to cause harm to an individual based on his or her gender. This type of inequity arises from harmful conventions, abusive exercise of authority and discrepancies in gender distribution. Gender inequality represents a flagrant infringement of fundamental human rights; at the same time, it becomes a welfare and protection dilemma that threatens integrity. It is estimated that one in three women will face some type of physical or sexual aggression during their life cycle.

When in situations of emergency and displacement, the likelihood of women and girls being victims of gender inequality increases significantly.

Finally, the research paper with which we close this edition deals with the rates of violence against women in Brazil and the establishment of laws to put limits on such practices through the Maria da Penha Law (2006) and the Femicide Law (2015), which criminalized gender violence and turned femicide into a heinous crime, indicate that mere criminalization is not enough to contain such practices. Despite all efforts to the contrary, an analysis focused on the State of Bahia shows that rates of violence against women are the highest in the Northeast and continue to increase, resulting in at least one case per day recorded, between 2022 and 2023.

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